

CHAL-0873-60

TOP SECRET

3 February 1960

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STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 2 February 1960

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PRESENT: Col. Burke

[redacted]

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Mr. Reber

[redacted]

Col. Geary

Mr. Kiefer

[redacted]

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1. FE AIR OPERATIONS - Approval was received to commence launching the aircraft to [redacted]. The schedule calls for maintenance support personnel to arrive first. As of the time of the Staff Meeting, no departure times had been received. It is anticipated that the aircraft with [redacted] will be in place on the 4th. [redacted] indicated that the political approval picture was still cloudy as a result of a message received today [redacted].

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[redacted] The tenor of this message was the political approval had not been refused but that there were certain changes in it. Col. Burke indicated that a firm decision will be made on the launching of the operation or withdrawal based on all factors, including, of course, the political aspects.

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The Air Attaché Office [redacted] indicated that [redacted] will be away from the area until 7 February and that in view of his required presence, a postponement has been recommended [redacted]. Col. Burke said that before a decision would be made, an effort would be made to use the services of the Air Attaché [redacted] or if this were not possible, provide a support officer.

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2. C-130 PROPOSAL - [redacted] reviewed the C-130B proposal, submitted approximately ten days ago to Mr. Bissell and approved in principle by him. This study details the advantages of the B model in terms of money, capability and minimum operational hazard. The study also proposes an alternate plan should continued use of Air Force cover be denied. The alternates suggested have been: (A) to assign the aircraft to CAT for both maintenance and operation and (B) to have Lockheed support detachments similar to CHALICE. No further action will be taken on the proposal until the return of Mr. Bissell. However, further discussion on it will be held with DOD and USAF. In the meantime, Air Force cover and support will be continued. As a preliminary step to the Lockheed proposal, the DPD Security Office is proceeding to secure clearances of key Lockheed personnel at the Marietta, Georgia, plant.

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4. TEST STATUS BOARD - [redacted] reported that Edwards does not have a heavy test schedule. At the present, the dual-oxygen system, A and B configurations, and J-75 testings continue but do not consume all the Test Site's time.

5. OXCART APPROVAL-- Mr. Kiefer reported that last week Mr. Bissell approved Lockheed proceeding with their design and building the vehicle. There were no major reservations in the approval.

6. CORONA STATUS - The next launch is scheduled for 3 February, subject at the moment to possible film problems.

7. BRIEFING OF PRESIDENT'S BOARD - On 29 January, Col. Burke and Mr. Lundahl briefed and updated the President's Board on Collection of Foreign Intelligence covering Project CHALICE only. The briefing was limited to mission 8005 and 4125. The Board's major query was, "How many sorties and how long would it take to provide complete coverage?" Col. Burke's answer to the Board was, "Thirty sorties and six months time, provided we picked the months."

8. SECURITY SLOTS [redacted] As the result of the meeting held on 29 January, a decision has been reached to provide two full-time security officers for the FE Air Operations staging through [redacted] A paper from [redacted] of the Office of Security, requesting that this plan be implemented, has been received by DPD. [redacted] commented that the individuals will not actually be assigned [redacted] but will, of course, spend a considerable portion of their time there. Present thinking is to assign the men PCS to [redacted]

9. DD/P CHANNELS DURING MR. BISSELL'S TDY TRIP - Col. Burke reported that Mr. Bissell is now on an official trip for approximately one month. During his absence, papers normally prepared for his signature will be prepared for that of Mr. Richard Helms as Acting DD/P. In the absence of Mr. Helms, the channel will be through [redacted] Should both be unavailable, General Cabell's office will be consulted. Col. Burke requested that Mr. Helms be kept fully informed of activities.

10. OTHER ITEMS - Col. Geary advised that he and Col. Burke had reviewed the present somewhat flexible practice regarding the replacement and release of Air Force personnel in DPD and stated that effective immediately, the following practice will be followed from the Air Force side:

A. Once a decision on replacement or release has been made, and forwarded in writing to him, it would be irrevocable.

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B. That a lead period of nine months would be followed, thereby giving ample opportunity to discuss the action.

C. Individuals so affected by these actions will be enjoined not to make private efforts to change the decision. He further indicated that the Air Force will honor personnel actions from only two DPD sources, the Office of the Chief, and the Personnel Office.

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Deputy Chief, Administrative Branch
DPD

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APPROVED:



WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD

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